Amendment to the Specification:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph on page 79, lines 10 to 24, with the following amended paragraph:

Relevant polynucleotide-acting enzymes thus also include any commercially available or non-commercially available polynucleotide endonucleases and their companion methylases including those ~~catalogued at the website~~ http://www.neb.com/rebase, ~~and those~~ mentioned in the following cited reference (Roberts and Macelis, 1996). Preferred polynucleotide endonucleases include – but are not limited to – type II restriction enzymes (including type IIS), and include enzymes that cleave both strands of a double stranded polynucleotide (e.g. *Not* I, which cleaves both strands at 5'...GC/GGCCGC...3') and enzymes that cleave only one strand of a double stranded polynucleotide, i.e. enzymes that have polynucleotide-nicking activity, (e.g. N. *Bst*NB I, which cleaves only one strand at 5'...GAGTCNNNN/N...3'). Relevant polynucleotide-acting enzymes also include type III restriction enzymes. It is appreciated that relevant polynucleotide-acting enzymes also include any enzymes that may be developed in the future, though currently unavailable, that are serviceable for generating a ligation compatible end, preferably a sticky end, in a polynucleotide.

Please replace the paragraph on page 146, lines 17 to 22, with the following amended paragraph:

The analysis of the obtained DNA and protein sequences, homology calculations and the search for related sequences in the gene banks were performed with the program package from the University of Wisconsin Genetics Computer Group (UWGCG). To search for homologous DNA or protein sequences, the database of EBI, Hinxton Hall, UK ~~(http://www.ebi.ac.uk/ebi_home.html)~~ was used. For example, the search programs "Fasta3," "Blast2" and "Blitz" were used.